

**IOWAccess Advisory Council Meeting  
Minutes of January 11, 2001**

**D r a f t**

Present: Carol French-Johnson, Marsha Carter, Jane Ginapp, Herb Strentz, Craig Hiemstra, Quent Boyken, Bob Skow, Richard Varn, Corlis Moody, Greg Stevens

Absent: Julie Newby, John Wellman, Kelly Hayworth, Richard Neri, Gail Flagel, Marsha Ternus, Steve King, Robert Dvorsky, Libby Jacobs

Guests: Dan Combs, Diane Van Zante, Bill Haigh, Clint Clark, Larry Murphy

- 1) Summary of Current Technology Projects – Dan introduced Clint Clark of the Iowa Interactive Team. The Information Technology Department (ITD) has created a database to track technology projects in state government. All projects are assigned a project manager from ITD. Clint gave a brief demo on the Internet to show where the project information is found:  
[www.iowaccess.org/main/digital\\_government/advisory/](http://www.iowaccess.org/main/digital_government/advisory/)  
The “Iowa ROI Project” link includes a database of the projects. Simply click on a particular project link to get more information.
- 2) Customer Feedback Options – Discussion deferred to next meeting.
- 3) ADA Compliance – The state’s website is ADA compliant. Clint and his staff run all their work through “Bobby”([www.cast.org/bobby](http://www.cast.org/bobby)), an ADA compliance website that allows you to forward a website to them and receive a report back indicating any problems that would be encountered by disabled persons. The Lt. Governor has also expressed a special interest in ADA compliance.
- 4) State Website Demo – Clint Clark gave a demo of the state website, beginning with the state homepage. He compared it to the layout of a magazine (front page, index, copy, etc.). There is a section called “about you” that allows visitors to provide feedback about the reason they visited the site, etc. There are about 2.5 million visitors to the state website each month. On the state website ([www.iowaccess.org](http://www.iowaccess.org)), there is a search function to help you find information about specific items. About 50% of Iowa homes have access to the Internet. NASIRE just put out a great publication about Digital Government called, “Creating Citizen-Centric Digital Government - A Guide for the States.” ITD is trying to change the focus of website development – moving away from agencies putting together the information that they want to get out to the people to customizing the information so citizens get the information they want (citizen driven, not agency driven). Two examples of this (referred to as “next generation portals”) are the Indiana and Kansas websites. We are in the process of redesigning the state web page and Rich would like the council to help with the redesign. Clint highlighted features of some of the other state websites (Utah and Idaho).

Craig Hiemstra brought up the idea of having a content manager. From that discussion sprung the idea of perusing agency web pages to identify fresh news and then featuring those items on the state's front page. Greg Stevens added that it would be nice if PowerPoint presentations that have been shown to legislators were available, as they are public information and would also be useful to a number of individuals.

- 5) 100% E by 2003 – The Governor announced the 100% E by 2003 initiative in his state of the state address on January 9. The Department Directors just received this information yesterday. ITD will begin meeting with all the agencies in coming weeks to discuss the initiative.

Agencies themselves will need to drive this process because there isn't enough additional funding to get this done. As the use of electronic government increases, we will want to identify the savings and determine how these resources can be reallocated. The first step is to survey citizens and determine how to leave the old system and transition to the new system. We will have to narrow down all the potential applications and determine which ones we are going to do next year. The Governor's budget last year contained about \$40 million for technology. The Governor's budget this year is about \$19 million for technology. Please provide Rich with any input on the 100% E document (previously sent to you) before the March meeting.

- 6) Website Language Translator – ITD just added a foreign language translator to the state website (lower left corner) that allows all the state websites to be translated into a number of other languages.
- 7) IOWAccess Data Center Move – On January 5, the IOWAccess data center hardware was moved from the Iowa Interactive office in the Teachout Building to the ITD server farm in the Hoover Building. Council members were provided with a document that contained more detailed information.
- 8) Webcast Statistics – The Governor's state of the state address was webcast. There were 559 people who watched it via the state server. The Governor's Office has asked us to sponsor an online chat (scheduled for the end of this month). In the future, Department Heads will also be holding online chats.
- 9) Assignment for Next Meeting – Dan asked that each of the council members go to the state website ([www.iowaccess.org](http://www.iowaccess.org)) and surf through it. Please take notes and tell us what works, what doesn't, what you like about it, what you don't like, etc. Also, can you find the information that you want and can you find it easily? Record your impressions. We will compile your comments and bring them back for discussion at the next meeting.
- 10) Wrap-up – The next meeting is March 8 at 9:00 a.m. Carol asked that the minutes from each meeting be approved at the following meeting. Bill Haigh encouraged members to talk to their legislators about creating a stable funding source for technology.